

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 7 April 1951

SUBJECT 1. Possible Construction of Aircraft Carriers at Nikolayev

NO. OF PAGES 1

2. Ships Undergoing Repair at Nikolayev

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. As of mid-March 1951, the following situation existed at the Marti Shipyard at Nikolayev (46-58N, 32-00E). Activity has been on the increase, with about 24,000 workers employed. There are at the shipyard two large ways about 400 meters in length, eight fixed three-ton cranes with horizontal arms on steel table bases, one 30-ton movable crane on girder tracks, and an electric power central of three turbo-generators with a total capacity of 27,000 kw.
2. One of the ways now contains the incomplete hull of an aircraft carrier with an estimated tonnage of 20,000. In addition to this informant's direct observation and three photographs of fair quality, the vessel has been so described by another informant, who added that German technicians who worked on the Graf Zeppelin are employed on the project.
3. A second way contains another hull about 20 meters shorter than the above-mentioned one and in a less advanced stage of construction. It also is believed to be an aircraft carrier.
4. Informant had the impression that the construction program is imposing, but the quality of the workers and the experience of the technicians evidently are below the requirements for work-schedules. The above-mentioned vessels are not expected to be ready for three years. The hull described in Para. 2 has been on the way for some time without substantial progress.
5. The following ships were in Nikolayev harbor in mid-March 1951:
 - a. The ex-Italian battleship Giulio Cesare was undergoing modifications of the forward superstructure, installation of radar equipment, and modification of anti-aircraft defenses.
 - b. The cruiser ex-Duca d'Aosta was still in the first stages of being refitted. It was being painted with red lead and few workers were aboard. Anti-torpedo boat and anti-aircraft artillery had been removed. This ship will require another year of work.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/15 : CIA-RDP82-00437R007400120001-1

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